

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/662,450  
Amendment filed June 7, 2007  
Reply to OA dated January 9, 2007

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 9 and add new claim 15, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing slurry containing a slurry stock solution and an oxidizing agent having a predetermined target concentration, the method comprising the steps of:

intentionally determining an initial mixing amount of the oxidizing agent to be supplied to a preparation tank less than the amount required for the oxidizing agent to match a the predetermined target concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry;

under control of a controller, supplying the slurry stock solution and the determined initial mixing amount of the oxidizing agent in a preparation tank to a preparation tank and mixing the slurry stock solution and the determined initial mixing amount of the oxidizing agent in the preparation tank to prepare slurry in which the concentration of the oxidizing agent is less than the predetermined target concentration;

detecting the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry; and then

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under control of the controller, additionally supplying the oxidizing agent to the preparation tank in accordance with the detected result so that the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry becomes equal to the predetermined target concentration.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

circulating the slurry in the preparation tank.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the detecting step includes continuously detecting the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry that is being circulated.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to claim 11, wherein the additionally supplying step is performed in accordance with the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry that is detected in the detecting step.

Claims 13-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein said detecting the concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry includes detecting, with a concentration detector, the

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concentration of the oxidizing agent in the slurry that is being prepared and is being forcefully flown  
upwardly through the concentration detector.